

Portland **Family** Observer

# Grant High Grad Integral to New Technologies

By **KEITH THOMPSON**  
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NEWS SERVICE

In the early 20th Century, soldiers faced a transformation. Gone were the hordes of cavalry on horseback charging with drawn sabers. In their place came rumbling tanks rolling with metal tracks, steel armor and immense firepower.

A century later, a local high school graduate is going through changes even more dramatic.

Army Spec. Roger C. LaMarche, son of Clara LaMarche, 3963 N.E. 14th Ave. is a member of a completely new type of unit designed to meet the challenges of the post Cold War world.

In response to conflicts such as Kosovo, Bosnia and Haiti, the new unit, called the Initial Brigade Combat Team is being assembled as a lighter, more mobile and fast deploying force.

The first unit to undergo the change is the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division here where LaMarche is an infantryman with the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment.

"We're in transition from a light infantry unit to a motorized unit," explained LaMarche, a 1994 graduate of U.S. Grant High School. "That means we will be changing our tactics and equipment pretty drastically to meet a new deployment mission."

The ultimate goal of the transformation is to have a medium force able to deploy with the speed of current light infantry forces, but arrive on the scene with more of the combat power of tank forces.

To do this, the brigade has exchanged its 70-ton Abrams tanks for smaller, wheeled LAV III light armored vehicles that can drive down narrow city streets and over small bridges.



Army Spec. Arthur Wolff and 2nd Lt. Brian Hurley use a computer system that allows for enhanced communication capabilities, even the use of e-mail on the battlefield. (PHOTO BY KEITH BROWN)



Former Grant student is a member of a new type of combat unit that's lighter, more mobile and fast deploying. (PHOTO BY KEITH BROWN)

The brigade, deployable by plane to anywhere in the world in 96 hours, has also been beefed up with increased intelligence gathering capabilities including unmanned aerial vehicles.

The army isn't getting rid of its heavy armor or light infantry, but creating a completely new style of unit with the latest in modern technology and weapons systems to handle the missions not suited to more traditional fighting forces, such as peacekeeping and humanitarian relief.

LaMarche is helping to develop the tactic, techniques and procedures for his brigade that will become the

model for future brigades.

"Our goal is to use vehicles and improved communications equipment to be rapidly deployable and to coordinate movement and operations over larger areas," LaMarche said. "When we're done with this transition we'll have a wider range of movement, greater mission capability and a greater degree of coordination and control unprecedented on the battlefield." Since the transformation began last year, LaMarche has become an integral player, helping the brigade deactivate units, create new ones and prepare for a scheduled initial operating capability by the end of the year. The retooling of a more

than 3,000 soldier strong fighting force has been a learning experience for LaMarche and his colleagues in the 3rd Brigade.

"This is a drastic change in thinking for me," LaMarche said. "Formerly I was only in light infantry units and never depended on vehicles to move or fight. Now I'm learning to think about different situations and tactics that include these new vehicles and utilize their capabilities."

Although LaMarche is a pioneer in the Army's trek into the 21st Century, he's following in the footsteps of soldiers past who've embraced change to keep America's Army on top.

## Senior Adults Needed Immediately

The Foster Grandparent Program is looking for senior adults, at least 60 years of age and on a limited income to help at-risk children in Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas counties.

Children need positive role models to assist them with reading, developing social

skills, and more. Foster Grandparents receive \$200 a month tax-free plus other incentives including meal and travel compensation, paid time-off, and sick leave.

No experience needed, just a desire to help. Call 503-232-0007 extension 202 for details.

## Volunteers Needed

The Portland Police Bureau's Elder Crimes Response Team is looking for volunteers to staff its Telephone Reassurance Service.

This program pairs volunteer callers with isolated, lonely or otherwise vulnerable seniors. Many of the people who subscribe to the service have been recent victims of crime or are high risk of being a crime victim.

Volunteers are responsible for making one 10-minute call to each individual assigned to them at a

prearranged time. Five days a week.

When subscribers fail to answer their phones, a designated neighbor is notified and asked to check out the situation. If the neighbor cannot resolve the problems, a police officer is dispatched to investigate. If you are interested in volunteering your time to help make someone feel safer, or know of someone who might benefit from getting a daily call, contact Jim Nelson at 503-823-0291.

## New Director Guides Native American Youth

Geoff Roth of Portland has been named executive director of the Native American Youth Association, a youth and family social services agency with offices at 4000 N. Mississippi.

Under the leadership of Roth, the association pledges to continue providing exceptional community and social services to Native American youth and their families.

Roth is Lakotaa Sioux from the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota. From 1998 to 2000, he was the

project facilitator of The Northwest Regional Education Service District Title IX Indian Education Project.

NAYA is available to all self-identified Native American youth. The goals of NAYA are to ensure the health of our future generations by developing more options for our youth, families and community. The association's programs include a tutoring center, student retention project, student attendance/crime prevention initiative, culture program, and domestic violence healing circle.

## New UO Study Tracks Asian American Adoptees

EUGENE - A new study at the University of Oregon will examine how the adoption of Asian Children by whites affects the development of racial identity. "There is a perception that Asian Americans belong to a 'model minority group' that is easily absorbed into American society. Previous studies indicate that isn't so," says researcher Mia Tuan, a UO assistant professor of sociology. Asian Americans are racially stereotyped in two ways, according to Tuan.

"Some people see them as 'forever' foreigners. Others see them as honor-

ary whites," she says. "We want to know how Asian Adoptees maneuver in this culture and in what ways their sense of ethnicity differs from Asian Americans who were not adopted," says researcher Jiannbin Lee Shiao, who is also a UO assistant professor of sociology. The study, which is funded through a \$145,000 grant from the Russell Sage Foundation, is being conducted in cooperation with Holt International Children's Services. The Eugene agency was a pioneer in the adoption of Asian children by American families.



Let's all do our part.  
Wait 'til late to use electricity.  
Call us at 1-800-222-4335, and ask for  
a copy of our Bright Ideas booklet  
for more energy-saving tips.

## Avoid baths.

### Showers save energy.

The average bath uses twice as much hot water as a 5-minute shower. Since a water heater can be the second-largest electricity user in your home, cutting down on the amount of water it needs to heat can save a lot of energy.

By working together, we've been able to reduce our energy use and keep the power flowing. But the energy crunch is not over yet. We still need to be thoughtful about how and when we use electricity.

Here are some other tips that can save you energy and money on water heating:

- Install energy-efficient showerheads and faucet aerators. They reduce the amount of water released from a tap by up to 50 percent, but still deliver excellent water pressure.
- Set your water heater temperature at 120°F. Be sure to turn the power off at the circuit breaker before changing the setting.
- Insulate exposed water pipes. This will help keep hot water pipes that run beneath your home, for example, from losing heat.
- Don't leave the water running while shaving. Turning the faucet on only when you need to can save thousands of gallons of water a year, not to mention the energy to heat it.
- If you're looking for a new electric water heater, buy a model with an energy factor equal to or better than .93EF for a 50-gallon tank.

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